

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office
FLOOR DEBATE

February 12, 2004 LB 94, 449, 1163

SENATOR CUDABACK: The motion was successful. The amendment has been adopted.

CLERK: Senator Preister would move to amend, AM2492, Mr. President. (Legislative Journal page 586.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Preister, to open on your amendment to LB 449.

SENATOR PREISTER: Thank you, Mr. President. Members of the body, AM2492 to LB 449 was LB 1163, essentially a cleanup bill of LB 94, which was passed last year. We've worked with the Department of Environmental Quality, the Douglas County Health Department, the Nebraska On-Site Wastewater Association, and others in drafting these provisions. In addition, we've touched base with the folks at Lincoln-Lancaster County Health Department, the Omaha Plumbers Local Union 16, the professional engineers, to make sure that all interested parties had signed off on these changes. The amendments accommodate local health department programs in communities such as Douglas and Lancaster Counties, which have existing Private On-site Wastewater Treatment System Contractors Certification and System Registration Programs that have been in existence prior to the passage of LB 94. AM2492 makes four technical changes to last year's LB 94. One, it clarifies that registered environmental health specialists who are registered in Nebraska may perform the activities under the act. It clarifies that any private wastewater treatment system constructed, reconstructed, altered, or modified by a registered environmental health specialist or professional engineer must be registered with the department. It excludes the current requirement that inspections of wastewater treatment systems have to be registered with the department. It allows the Department of Environmental Quality to delegate authority through a contract to a local political subdivision to administer a private wastewater treatment system program if the local political subdivision has private on-site wastewater treatment requirements that are at least as stringent as the state's requirements and (b) the local program has demonstrated its ability to administer and enforce its own program. The proposed changes will allow the continuation of locally administered, private, on-site wastewater treatment